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Cuba: amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.62

Enhancing the role of regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy

1. After the existing preambular paragraph, insert four new preambular paragraphs reading:

> "*Reaffirming* the right of the peoples to self-determination by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
>
> "*Reaffirming also* our commitment, expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, to work collectively for the promotion of democracy and for more inclusive political processes allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all countries;
>
> "*Recognizing and respecting* the rich and diverse nature of the community of the world's democracies, which arises out of all the world's social, cultural and religious beliefs and traditions, and recognizing also that while all democracies share common features, there is no one model of democracy;
>
> "*Convinced* that within the international cooperation for the promotion of democracy, only those processes established on the basis of respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity and inclusiveness can contribute to the attainment of the goal of consolidating democracy at the national, regional and international levels".

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2. Replace operative paragraph 1 with the following text:

"*Declares* that the essential elements of democracy include respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, inter alia, freedom of association and peaceful assembly and of expression and opinion, and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic free elections by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the people and people's participation and control, as well as appropriate and effective accessible, representative and accountable democratic institutions, respect for the rule of law, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, transparency and accountability in public administration and free, fair, socially responsible, independent and pluralistic media".

3. After operative paragraph 3, insert a new operative paragraph reading:

"*Condemns*, in this regard, any politically motivated attempt or misuse of the international cooperation for the promotion of democracy, including the marginalization or exclusion of Member States of the United Nations from full participation in and equal opportunities of membership in the intergovernmental bodies of regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements".

4. Replace operative paragraph 5 with the following text:

"*Reaffirms* that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives and in that context, that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national, regional and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached".

5. In operative paragraph 8, replace the words "as well as relevant non-governmental organizations" with the words "as well as non-governmental organizations, while respecting their mandates and the national laws".

6. In operative paragraph 14, after the words "to identify, develop and coordinate", add the words: "in accordance with its mandates and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations".